

Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
August Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 09, 2013
Maryland Department of Transportation
Hanover, Maryland

Members Present

Steve Carr
Robert Gaston
Gregory Hinchliffe
Beverly Malone
Michael Mason
Jon Morrison
Erin Penniston
Carl Rebele
(*Jennifer Jones for*) Marci Ross
Fred Shaffer III
Patrick Sheehan
Carol Silldorff
(*Michael Jackson for*) James T. Smith
Jim Swift
Jennifer R. Terrasa
Cari Watrous
John Z. Wetmore
Michael Jackson (staff)

Members Absent

Richard Cushwa
Scott Hansen
Kevin Racine
Michael Tagliaferri
James G. Titus

Visitors Present

Dustin Kuzan, State Highway Administration
Iftin Thompson, SHA

Chairman Jim Swift called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

1. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes

Carl Rebele moved and Cari Watrous seconded his motion to approve the June meeting minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Reports

A. Legislative & Government Affairs – L&GA Subcommittee Chair Patrick Sheehan distributed a report to the members electronically the night before the meeting. He discussed new funding initiatives for Montgomery County including an announcement by Governor Martin O'Malley that the State was contributing \$400 million for the

construction of the Purple Line light rail corridor. Patrick asked a number of questions about the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). Carl circulated a hard copy of the FY 13-18 Draft CTP. Michael Jackson promised to provide Patrick an electronic link to the current CTP and the contact information of the MDOT staff person in charge of putting together the annual CTPs.

There was discussion of the threat of cuts to bicycle and pedestrian programs at the federal level. Steve Carr stated that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and MDOT have federal lobbyists who monitor congressional proposals to cut transportation and recreational spending but it is good for federal legislators to hear from their constituents directly about the need to preserve such funding. Patrick noted that SHA had retrofitted about 490 signalized intersections with accessible pedestrian signal (APS) devices to date.

Jim Swift noticed that there were a couple of outdated laws in the current version of the fine or penalty deposit schedule for violations of vehicle laws as published by the District Court of Maryland. The outdated laws were the requirement that bicyclists must use shoulders and have bells on their bicycles. Peace officers rely on this fine schedule when writing traffic citations. He proposed that MBPAC send a letter to the District Court requesting that the fine schedule be revised to show the current laws. Greg Hinchliffe moved and Fred Shaffer seconded a motion that MBPAC send this letter to the District Court. The motion was unanimously approved.

Carol Silldorff said a couple of legislators were supportive of legislation to allow vehicles to cross double yellow lines when safe to do so in order to pass bicyclists by 3 feet and to repeal Maryland's contributory negligence laws. Bike Maryland is trying to create an internship opportunity for a law school student to research bicycle laws in the other 49 states and the District of Columbia in order to see if there were other laws that Maryland should adopt. Erin Penniston agreed to help Carol out by contacting law students she has contact with. Michael recommended that the Uniform Vehicle Code also be reviewed if the prospective legal intern is hired.

Carol said Delegate Jon Cardin, who chairs the Legislative Bicycle Caucus, is planning on calling a Bicycle Caucus meeting in the near future. Michael said Delegate Addie Eckhardt of the Mid-Shore is planning 4 days of bicycling later this month in her district, which covers parts of several counties and that Dick Cushwa was helping to draw maps of the proposed routes. There was interest in publicizing Delegate Eckhardt's tour. Michael said he would check with Delegate Eckhardt to see if all were welcome or whether the ride would be by invitation only.

B. Commuting and Transportation Subcommittee – C&T Chair Greg Hinchliffe asked about the status of SHA's planned Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines. Dustin Kuzan, SHA Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, replied they were completed. Michael said he would send the members an electronic link to this document. Dustin gave an update on how this document is being used and when the next update would be

expected. Greg noted that the Maryland Aviation Administration was constructing wheelchair ramps to improve pedestrian accessibility at the intersection of Fuel Farm Road and Elm Road, along the Airport Spur of the BWI Trail. Michael mentioned the work included replacement of bicycle wheel incompatible storm drain grates along Elm Road.

Greg asked Dustin about the status of a proposed “road diet” previously discussed for MD 170 as it crosses beneath I-695 in Linthicum. This road diet is needed to create more room for bicyclists and pedestrians on the east side of MD 170 beneath I-695. Greg also wondered about the status of the Light-Rail Trail which is planned to connect the BWI Trail with the Gwynn Falls Trail. He said Phases 2 and 4 of the Jones Falls Trail in Baltimore City was now completed and Phase 5 is now funded and this phase would extend the trail to the Mount Washington section of Baltimore City.

Michael and Dustin talked about SHA’s responses to recommendations that three figures in the 2013 Bicycle Policy and Design Guidelines be either deleted or revised so as to not require bicyclists to cross solid lines when bike lanes begin or end. Michael said SHA would relay their final response by the end of August.

C. Education and Awareness Subcommittee – E&A Chair Beverly Malone distributed a written report. She said the Association for Commuter Transportation held a University Transportation Demand Management Summit at the University of Maryland at College Park (UMD) on July 28th. She said bicycling and walking issues occupied 30 to 40 percent of the conference schedule. She said UMD staff has begun installing shared lane markings on campus roadways and installing five bicycle repair stations on campus grounds.

Beverly discussed bikesharing matters in Montgomery County and on the campus and asked about the status of the law enforcement bicycle traffic safety training video. Michael replied the video was almost complete.

D. Tourism and Product Development – Carl discussed items from the written report absent T&PD Chair Dick Cushwa prepared which included Hagerstown bicycling events, proposed US Bike Routes 11 and 50. Carl applauded Dick’s dedication and professionalism in promoting and developing bicycle facilities and programs. Jennifer Jones said a travel writer from western West Virginia rode the Torrey C. Brown Trail and had written about her experience.

Steve said DNR was making progress in creating trail maps that could be accessed by smart phone. Michael gave an update on the status of putting the US Bike Route 50 application together. There was a question as to whether proposed US Bike Route 50 would follow the American Discovery Trail route alignment. Jennifer said the Office of Tourism Development was soliciting nominations for several categories of Maryland travel and tourism awards. Nominations are due by September 16, 2013.

3. Other Business

Greg thanked Michael for his efforts to lift the current ban on bicycle access across the Hatem Bridge. Fred credited the recently passed bicycle and pedestrian development guidelines in Prince George's County has resulted in developer proffers that benefit pedestrians and bicyclists in New Carrollton. Michael discussed a recent visit to Toronto and his observations of bicycling, walking, transit and public amenities.

4. Chair's Announcement

Jim announced he was resigning from MBPAC as of September 30, 2013. He received a round of applause for his service to MBPAC as a member and for serving as chair for six years.

5. Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM